

**OVERMOUNTAIN VICTORY TRAIL
BURKE – CALDWELL CORRIDOR
FEASIBILITY STUDY**

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

CALDWELL COUNTY PATHWAYS

Caldwell County Pathways along with our co-partners City of Lenoir, Town of Gamewell, City of Morganton, Burke County and Caldwell County Governments have come together to study the feasibility of a Overmountain Victory Trail Greenway Corridor that will integrate recreational, conservation and eco-educational opportunities in Burke and Caldwell Counties.

This biking and hiking trail system will tie together Lenoir and Morganton Greenways along Lower Creek and the Catawba River. This Greenway plan will be the preliminary step in establishing a future Greenway alignment along a main stem of the Overmountain Victory Trail.

Background

The Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail *commemorates the campaign leading to the battle of Kings Mountain by following the Revolutionary War route of Patriot militia men from Virginia, today's eastern Tennessee, North Carolina, and South Carolina to the battle site at Kings Mountain National Military Park in South Carolina.* This historic trail, part of the National Trails System, tracks the route of Patriot militia men to the Battle of Kings Mountain.

Scope of Work

Caldwell Pathways is requesting proposals from professional firms interested in providing the following services outlined in this request:

The primary areas of analysis for the feasibility study are:

- Ownership of the land (public/private)
- Inventory of present conditions of the roads, utilities, and river corridor for a greenway trail system.
- Evaluation of existing environmental features such as wetlands, streams, vegetation, topography that may affect the greenway alignment.
- Alignment alternatives to minimize the impact in areas of private ownership
- Prepare cost estimates for design and construction

A. Plan Goals

Tentative goals for the plan include:

1. Provide a balanced multi-use trail that is designed to accommodate all potential users.
2. Address the state's Greenspace Initiative and how it is to be implemented with a designed greenway.
3. Analysis and recommendation on the best possible surface material, that will minimize the overall maintenance cost and provide user accessibility.
4. Develop a recommendation for funding the plan's suggested initiatives. Potential sources should at least include State & Federal grant opportunities.
5. Describe improvements necessary to link existing park facilities to the proposed greenway.
6. Identify possible public private partnerships that could help this trail system be more successful.

B. TASKS

I. Data Collection & Design

1. *Physical Inventory and Assessment of the ROW*

- a. Prepare mapping of proposed greenway alignment(s) at an appropriate scale.
- b. Perform office and field research to delineate areas of concern.
- c. Compatibility of trail development with adjacent land uses. These include the state forest and park systems, agricultural, residential, businesses, schools and churches.

2. *Physiographic Analysis—Identify and map:*

- a. Steep slopes.
- b. Topography (Use of topographic information on USGS maps is acceptable).
- c. Soils
- d. Surrounding land use.
- e. Erosion and drainage problems along the trail.

3. *Natural Inventory—Identify and map:*

- a. The adjacent or intersecting streams.
- b. Significant natural features (lakes, ponds, rock outcroppings, wetlands, floodplains, etc.)
- c. Existing vegetation and wildlife analysis.
(Identify any species of concern or sensitive habitat areas in the project area and/or the existence of aggressive, weedy species/major invasive plants).

4. *Points of Interest:*

- a. Historical sites
- b. Cultural sites
- c. Civic sites

5. *Structures within the Corridor:*

- a. Provide an assessment of necessary stream crossings.
- b. Identify potential trail obstructions.

6. *Infrastructure and Utilities:*

- a. Identify graphically, the location of utilities and local roads in relationship to trail and alternative trail locations (water, sanitary sewers, electrical and gas lines, telephone, etc.).
- b. Identify auxiliary facilities necessary to operate the trail and provide conceptual designs for these areas such as rest areas, parking facilities, fencing or buffer systems, drainage systems, emergency vehicle access, facilities to meet the needs of persons with disabilities.
- c. Identify opportunities for dual use easements.

7. *Intersections and Access Points:*

- a. Identify graphically, existing road crossings, active rail lines, driveways, etc.
- b. Inventory access points located within the corridor for possible vehicular and pedestrian access to and through the corridor.

8. *Environmental Concerns:*

- a. Based on preliminary review, determine the need for environmental assessment.

9. *Design Alternatives*

- a. Develop conceptual designs for mitigating potential conflicts between pedestrians and other proposed trail users (bicyclists, horseback riders, etc.).
- b. Identify and prepare conceptual designs for facilities required to restrict use of the path.

10. Prepare opinions of probable cost.

11. Route Feasibility

- a. Determine the ownership using available GIS information. Consider routes that minimize the impact on private landowners.
- b. Identify property owners and contact, if appropriate, to describe the project and determine level of interest in supporting the project.
- c. Determine points of concern where ownership is not clearly evident.
- d. Route, if at all practical, needs to go within ½ mile of NPS designated route.

II. Funding

- a. Develop a recommendation for funding the proposed greenway. Potential sources should at least include State & Federal funding opportunities.

III. Implementation

- a. Provide recommendations for potential phasing of proposed greenway and connectors to points of interest.

C. Requirements for Proposal

Design Team

Caldwell County Pathways intends to award a single contract for the project. The design team must be led by a North Carolina registered Landscape Architect and/or Professional Engineer with experience in greenway master planning and design and must include firms and/or individuals with the following skills:

- Professional Engineer (PE) with extensive civil site design experience including – but not limited to – greenway planning, pedestrian bridges, innovative stormwater management practices, parking and transportation, and lighting.
- Registered Landscape Architect (RLA) specializing in the design of public greenways and recreational facilities.
- Demonstrated experience with responsible site development, by avoiding and minimizing environmental impacts.
- Demonstrated experience with obtaining necessary permits and approvals from all authorities with oversight control, including – but not limited to – NCDENR, NCDOT, and Burke County and Caldwell County.
- Demonstrated ability to successfully design greenway associated with bridges, stream crossings, wetland, and related parking facilities as required.
- Demonstrated ability to communicate with private property owners as it relates to easement acquisition.
- Demonstrated ability to successfully conduct hydrologic study, design and permit for no-rise study.
- Preferred firms will also include those with experienced with project funding and have worked with the local governments associated with this effort.

Content and Format of Submitted Proposals

Proposals should address and include (as a minimum) the following:

1. Table of Contents
2. Letter of Interest including firm name, address, telephone, and contact person
3. A clear and concise response as to why your firm should be selected for this work
4. General overview of the firm and its experience relative to this project
5. Current related experience of the firm:

- Specifically note projects currently being undertaken by members of the proposed design team
 - Address the firm's workload and how this project would fit with your existing work
6. References from three (3) similar projects in North Carolina completed within the past five (5) years complete with project name, location, and a brief statement regarding the scope of work, project budget, and completed cost, along with the contact name and phone number of the Owner's representative (reference)
 - Provide names and contact numbers for Owner's representatives of each
 7. List your proposed design team (at a minimum) the following information for each:
 - Their role on the design team for this project
 - Qualifications
 - Education
 - Relevant experience, with specific description of public park and recreational facility design
 - Specifically address team's experience working with public projects, environmental enhancements or better site design practices
 8. Names and addresses of any sub-consultants proposed to be involved with this project. Include the sub-consultants' experience, education, and qualifications.
 9. Provide an organization chart and description of tasks assigned per project team member.

Note: Respondents are expected to present their complete design team in the proposal response, including all sub-consultants that may be proposed. Since sub-consultants qualifications will be evaluated similarly to the proposing firm's own design team, please ensure that complete information is included.

Proposal Format

Limit the total number of pages to ten (10) equaling five (5) double-sided pages. Laminated, glossy, colored submittals in hardcover binders are not encouraged.

Each respondent is requested to submit seven (7) hard copies of your proposal and one (1) electronic copy by the submittal deadline on **August 31, 2014** at 5:00 PM, EST. The electronic copy may be submitted on CD media with the hard copy submittal.

<u>Physical Address:</u>	Name: Caldwell County Pathways Project Location: c/o City of Lenoir 801 West Avenue, NW P.O. Box 958 Lenoir, NC 28645
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Electronic Address: lbailey@lenoir-nc.gov

Evaluation and Selection Process

All proposals will be evaluated by a selection committee.

Evaluation may include – but is not necessarily limited to – the following:

- Relevant qualifications, skills, and experience of the overall design team
- Demonstrated success on projects of similar scope
- Relevant government experience within the project area
- Experience working with greenway projects funded by NCDOT
- Capacity of firm and key project personnel to meet the required schedule
- Positive references from completed projects of similar scope

Proposal Instructions

- A. Proposal Deadline:** Must be received by **August 31, 2014** no later than 5:00 PM, EST
- B. Submission of Proposals:** Vendors must submit both **one (1) electronic PDF version** of the proposal (excluding any materials that are non-electronic) and **seven (7) hard copies** with all attachments, including signatory pages, which should be received by the deadline above. The hard copies must be sent to one (1) of the following delivery addresses:

Physical Address:

Caldwell County Pathways Project
c/o City of Lenoir
801 West Avenue NW
P.O. Box 958
Lenoir, NC 28645

The **electronic PDF version** of the proposal (excluding the non-electronic materials) must be submitted by the deadline below to the electronic address or included on CD-R media with the sealed proposal packet.

Electronic Address: lbailey@lenoir-nc.gov

- C. Withdrawal of Proposals:** Proposing vendors may withdraw their proposals at any time before the deadline for submission on **August 31, 2014** at 5:00 PM, EST. The withdrawal must be submitted in writing and signed by the proposing vendor.
- D. Inquiries and Corrections:** All inquiries relating to this request should be in writing and addressed, faxed, or emailed to: List Name and Contact Information.

W. Lane Bailey
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Lenoir, NC 28645
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